

Serial No. 10/594,313

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hinge structure comprising:

hinge portion that connects a fixed member and a movable member to each other and allows the movable member to swing relative to the fixed member; and

a pair of connection portions adapted to respectively connect the hinge portion to the fixed member and the movable member, the pair of connection portions including a first connection portion connecting the hinge portion to the fixed member and a second connection portion connecting the hinge portion to the movable member,

wherein the hinge portion comprises a shaft

the fixed member has a recessed portion on a surface thereof, ~~[[and]]~~ the first connection portion ~~on the side of the fixed member is extendedly provided~~ extends adjacent to the recessed portion, and

the first connection portion has a connection surface, the connection surface being continuous with at least one surface of the hinge portion extending in an axial direction thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein

the first connection portion and the hinge portion are integrally formed by molding elastically deformable synthetic resin.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The hinge structure according to claim 2; wherein

the pair of connection portions, the hinge portion, the fixed member and the movable member are integrally formed.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein the hinge portion and ~~at least one of the connection portions~~ the first connection portion have their side surfaces smoothly continued to each other.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A hinge structure member comprising a hinge structure, ~~where the hinge structure comprises:~~ comprising:

a hinge portion that connects a fixed member and a movable member to each other and allows the movable member to swing relative to the fixed member; and

a pair of connection portions adapted to respectively connect the hinge portion to the fixed member and the movable member, the pair of connection portions including a first connection portion connecting the hinge portion to the fixed member and a second connection portion connecting the hinge portion to the movable member,

wherein the hinge portion comprises a shaft,

the fixed member has a recessed portion on a surface thereof, ~~[[and]]~~ the first connection portion ~~on the side of the fixed member is extendedly provided~~ extends adjacent to the recessed portion, and

the first connection portion has a connection surface, the connection surface being continuous with at least one surface of the hinge portion extending in an axial direction thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The hinge structure member according to claim 5, wherein the first connection portion and the hinge portion of the hinge structure are integrally formed by molding elastically deformable synthetic resin.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The hinge structure member according to claim 6, wherein the pair of connection portions, the hinge portion, the fixed member and the movable member are integrally formed.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The hinge structure member according to claim 5, wherein the hinge portion and ~~at least one of the connection portions~~ the first connection portion have their side surfaces smoothly continued to each other.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The hinge structure member according to claim 5, wherein the fixed member is a support frame, and the movable member is an operation button.

Claim 10 (new): An integrally-molded hinge structure comprising:
a hinge portion that connects a fixed member and a movable member to each other and allows the movable member to swing relative to the fixed member;
wherein the fixed member comprises a recess into a fixed-member surface thereof;
wherein the hinge portion comprises a shaft extending from the fixed member, the shaft having an upper surface and a lower surface parallel to the upper surface, and right and left surfaces,
wherein the right and left surfaces of the shaft are continuous with a side wall of the recess; and
wherein the upper surface of the shaft is coplanar with the fixed-member surface.

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Claim 11 (new): The integrally-molded hinge structure according to claim 10, wherein the upper surface of the shaft is continuous with the fixed-member surface.

Claim 12 (new): The integrally-molded hinge structure according to claim 10, wherein the side wall comprises a floor of the recess, and wherein the lower surface of the shaft coincides with the floor of the recess where the hinge portion overlaps the fixed member.

Claim 13 (new): The integrally-molded hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein a lower surface of the shaft coincides with the floor of the recess where the hinge portion overlaps the fixed member, whereby a surface of the shaft is flush with the at least one surface of the hinge portion extending in an axial direction thereof.

Claim 14 (new): The integrally-molded hinge structure according to claim 5, wherein a lower surface of the shaft coincides with the floor of the recess where the hinge portion overlaps the fixed member, whereby a surface of the shaft is flush with the at least one surface of the hinge portion extending in an axial direction thereof.